

Feb. 11, 2010
5:30 P.M.
Newport, Oregon

The Water Task Force of the City of Newport, Oregon met on the above date in Conference Room A of the Newport City Hall. Present were:

Water Task Force members Janet Webster (vice-chair), Rueben Johnson, Jim Fuller, and Jay Peterson.

Staff: Lee Ritzman, Director, Newport Dept. of Public Works; Greg Schaecher, Assistant City Engineer; Water Distribution Supervisor Lanny Schulze; Water Treatment Supervisor Steve Stewart; and Public Works Administrative Assistant Bob Fuller.

Also present was Garrett Pallo of Civil West Engineering Services.

The meeting was called to order by Janet Webster at 5:30 PM. Minutes were approved subject to a correction on the time of the next meeting (change from 7:30 PM to 5:30 PM).

- I. Webster initiated discussion of water conservation program.
 - A. Focus on public education.
 - B. Discussion of options for funding and/or educational/water management training, especially fish plants, brewery, aquarium, and hotels.
 - 1. Print the city website information for water conservation on water bills.
 - 2. Information packet for self-audit for business consumers
 - 3. Lanny mentioned radio-read meters would be useful for plotting detailed water use and could be accessed by user.
 - 4. Janet will check with OSU Extension Service re: workshops possibilities.
- II. Garrett Pallo discussed what the State is looking for re water conservation plans/programs.
 - A. A brief outline of plans, strategy, funding sources, and how results will be measured.
 - B. For example, a better goal might be "Make beneficial use of water", not necessarily "Don't use water".
- III. Lee advises looking for specifics:
 - A. Encourage educational opportunities via higher rates, elimination of block rate structure.
 - B. We are exploring water conservation kits partnership with PUD; appears PUD may fund this. Currently awaiting a callback from PUD.
 - C. Other: Package water conservation printed materials with business license materials; counter racks with printed materials.

IV. Other proposals

- A. School education programs, including field trips to water treatment plant; target age 3rd grade. Steve will research.
- B. Jay: Newspaper "tip of the week" re water conservation.
- C. Staff will draft a memo to Water Resources Dept. w/plan and priorities; with a 5-year reporting window. Will be sent to task force by email first.
- D. Tie in to City Council goal setting session coming up next week.

The next meeting will be via email, no date was set.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 6:40 PM.